

AP English Literature & Composition

Summer Work Requirements / 2020-2021 School Year

Welcome to AP English Literature & Composition, a college-level course involving extensive reading of novels, poetry, and prose. A significant portion of the reading for this course will be completed outside of class, and all work in class will be dependent upon this reading at home. Completing the summer assignments will show that you can work independently and make meaningful connections with the texts.

Required Summer Reading and Annotations:

1. Book # 1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between The Lines*, Revised Edition Paperback – February 2014 ([Link to Amazon](#))
2. Book #2: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte ([Link to Amazon](#))
3. Study/familiarize yourself with the AP English List of Key Terms provided.

Due Dates: Bring your annotated books during the second week of school.

How to Read and Annotate Literary Text

Annotating is a task-oriented skill that can be applied to any written text. In order to annotate well, you must be an active reader - meaning, you must engage with the text. You may also need to read a work or portions of a work more than once.

When annotating use the margins in your text to record your ideas, comments, perceptions, and questions. You can also make notes regarding characterization, setting, conflict, or other literary elements. Get used to writing and marking up your books. Keep a pen or highlighter in your hand as you read.

The purpose of annotating a literary text is not only to understand what is happening, but to go beyond the literal meaning. An author's style (diction,

syntax, tone, imagery, symbols, motifs, setting) is just as much a part of the text as is the story itself. “The meaning of the work as a whole” is a key component to understanding an author’s intention, and also an important part of the AP Lit Exam.

Annotating Guide:

- Use a pen (any color) to underline and make textual/marginal notes
- Use post it notes or flags (sparingly) for larger concepts, such as themes
- Look for patterns underline, and label them in your margins (motifs, diction, syntax, symbols, images, behavior, etc.)
- Mark text that expresses a(n)
 - important idea or theme
 - figure of speech or image
 - interesting sentence patterns, word(s), phrases
 - Foreshadowing
 - key moment in the plot or conflict
 - dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting, an allusion, etc.
- Mark phrases, sentences, or passages that puzzle, intrigue, make you laugh, make you cringe, please or displease you. Ask questions and make comments. Create a conscious dialogue with the text.

Running Headnotes and Endnotes

- At the top the pages write a phrase or sentence that summarizes what is happening
 - This makes it easy to find and reference specific sections of the text without having to reread numerous pages.
- At the ends of chapters or sections write a brief bulleted list of key plot events

- This helps you think about what happened, see the novel as a whole, and identify patterns, but will help you create a record of the whole plot.
 - Pay attention to allusions. Familiarize yourself with references to specific passages from other works (the Bible will play an important role in *Jane Eyre*). Looking up a brief overview of an allusion can illuminate meanings in the text that you would be blind to otherwise.
 - Pay attention to any significance that might be suggested by a character's name, a chapter's title, etc. Make a note of your understanding of how their names signal more about them/content.
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Required Tasks

Book #1: *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*

Foster says, “What I’m talking about is a grammar of literature, a set of conventions and patterns, codes and rules, that we learn to employ on dealing with a piece of writing, the grammar of literature” (xiii). His book is a “How To” reference guide to understanding and interpreting the literature. ***You will only read a selection of chapters from this book.***

While reading the introduction and each of the chapters listed below, you should identify four (4) “codes and patterns of recognition” (which, according to Foster “professional students of literature” recognize and refer to). Take notes, underline, and/or add post-it notes, annotate, or write marginal notes as you progress.

- The Introduction
- Chapter 1 (Every Trip is a Quest)
- Chapter 6 (...Or the Bible)

- Chapter 9 (It's More Than Just Rain or Snow)
- Chapter 12 (Is That a Symbol?)
- Chapter 16 (It's all about Sex)
- Chapter 17 (...Except Sex)
- Chapter 19 (Geography Matters...)
- Chapter 22 (He's Blind for a Reason, You Know)
- Chapter 24 (Don't Read with Your Eyes)

Book #2: *Jane Eyre*

Actively read the novel, and annotate using the following methods:

Running Head Notes: brief statement at top of page about what is happening

- key moment in the plot
- important event
- conflict

Chapter Summary: quick list of what happens throughout, at the end of each chapter

Track the following universal themes, which appear throughout the novel:

- Alienation/Isolation – character feels alone – not part of a family/class and/or society
- Rejection/Abandonment – Character experiences rejection and consequently suffers
- Search for Identity
- Love vs Autonomy
- Passion and Reason
- Emancipation of Women/Gender Roles
- Pursuit of Righteousness
- A Spiritual Awakening/Reawakening
- Coming of Age (growth of a protagonist from youth to adulthood and psychological/moral growth)

Patterns: underline and label them in your margins

- Motifs
- Diction
- Syntax
- Symbols
- Images
- Behavior
- Text: underline and label in your margins anything that expresses a(n)
 - important idea
 - interesting sentence patterns, word(s), phrases
 - Foreshadowing
 - dialogue that reveals character, clues about the setting, an allusion, etc.
 - your own reactions, questions, thoughts, perceptions, etc.